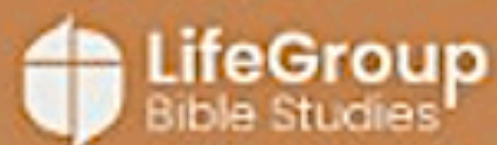




THE STORY  
OF JESUS  
IN THE  
GOSPEL  
OF MARK



FALL 2025  
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# Jesus Heals

- When Jesus heals you and gives you new life, you want to serve Him (Mark 1:29-31)
- Jesus left the synagogue and went directly to Peter's house.
- Mark tells us this was the house of Simon and Andrew.



# Jesus Heals

- In New Testament times, extended families lived together in multi-generational homes. The father was the head of the household, and when his sons grew old enough to marry, they added on to their father's house and brought their wives to live there.
- Peter and Andrew lived in the home of their father, Jonah, so it's strange that Peter's mother-in-law lived with him.



# Jesus Heals

- In a typical situation, she would have lived with her husband and their sons, not her grown daughter. This likely meant she was a widow who didn't have any grown sons. Peter's family took her in, which was not their responsibility but that of her husband's family.
- The fact that she lived with Peter's family showed that theirs was a family of compassion and support.



# Jesus Heals

- Peter's mother-in-law was in bed, sick with a fever. Luke, who was a physician, added that it was a "high" fever, and she was "suffering."
- This was not just a simple fever but a serious illness. Immediately (again), they told Jesus about her, showing their compassionate care. In an honor/shame culture, sickness was something that brought shame.



# Jesus Heals

- Sickness indicated you had done something wrong to deserve it.
- But they met her with concern and empathy, not shame, and asked Jesus to help. And Jesus didn't hesitate.
- He took her by the hand and lifted her up, and the fever left her.



# Jesus Heals

- It's significant that Jesus touched her; He didn't have to.
- He could have healed her with just His words, as He had rebuked the spirit.
- In Old Testament law, touching a dead body or someone with a skin disease made you ritually unclean (Leviticus 5:3; 11:28).



# Jesus Heals

- Touching a person sick with fever was not explicitly prohibited, but people would have been wary of touching her in case what she had was contagious.
- Yet Jesus often touched people when healing, even when it would make Him ritually unclean. Touch is an act of love and intimacy.
- It brings comfort. It shows that you value the person.



# Jesus Heals

- This touch was unique. He took her by the hand and lifted her up. The word can mean “awaken,” “arise” or “raise up.” It’s the word used in the New Testament for God’s raising the dead.
- This was the first physical healing Jesus performed in Mark’s Gospel, and it was a foreshadowing of the Resurrection.



# Jesus Heals

- She was lying down as if dead, and Jesus raised her up.
- Her healing was immediate and complete; she began serving them right away, as many well-mannered Jewish people would do for their guests.
- She didn't need time to recover.
- She didn't need to rest. She was made new.



# Jesus Heals

- Her immediate serving also points us to our response to being healed, restored and made new by Jesus – serving Him.
- This life as a new creation in Christ, with His Spirit dwelling in us, it is a life of service because the heart of Jesus is the heart of a servant.
- Jesus Himself lived a life of service (Matthew 20:28).



# Jesus Prays

- Even in the busyness, Jesus took time to go away alone to pray (Mark 1:32-39)
- That very same evening, people started bringing people to Jesus to be healed. He cast out a demon in the synagogue that morning and at sundown the whole city was gathered at the door. They waited until sundown only because that was when Sabbath ended.



# Jesus Prays

- A sentence in verse 34 shares what may seem to be an odd detail, but it is significant to the story.
- After that first demon recognized Him in the synagogue, Jesus didn't let the demons speak so they wouldn't reveal His identity.
- This is the beginning of what scholars call “the Messianic Secret” in Mark. But it doesn't seem to make a lot of sense.



# Jesus Prays

- Why would He perform miracles publicly but also try to keep His identity a secret at the same time?
- Jesus wasn't hiding who He was.
- He was being strategic about how and when He revealed Himself.
- Timing was crucial.



# Jesus Prays

- But it is significant to note that the demons knew who He was.
- This points us again to His divine power and authority.
- He was not just a human king come to save Israel.
- He is God-made-flesh come to save the world.



# Jesus Prays

- This section has a bookend structure, a “miracle-prayer-miracle” sandwich.
- The first section (vv. 32–34) describes an intense evening in which Jesus, bombarded by “the whole city” bringing Him “all” who were sick or oppressed by demons, healed “many” and cast out “many” demons.



# Jesus Prays

- Intense language to describe an intense situation. The sheer quantity of healings shows Jesus' incredible power.
- But it also shows His compassion and care for all of humanity.
- He healed everyone who came to Him, just as He saves all who come to Him in faith, no matter their background, social status, or anything else.



# Jesus Prays

- In the last verse of this section, Mark again showed Jesus performing many miracles through “all” of Galilee.
- The line is shorter, but it reinforces this feeling of non-stop healing power. In verses 35-39, the people weren't coming to Jesus; He was going out to them.
- Jesus was on the move, going to meet people where they were, taking His preaching and healing power to them.



# Jesus Prays

- But sandwiched between these two sections is a significant thing Jesus did. He went away from all the crowds and attention and work of the ministry and took the time to pray, verse 35.
- He took a break not because He needed rest but because He needed to pray. He actually sacrificed rest (sleep) to do so. He got up while it was still dark.



# Jesus Prays

- Jesus regularly took the time to pray.
- Even in this busy ministry season, when things were going so fast, from one thing to the next to the next, He stopped and took time to pray. Not just as a model for us, but because He needed to pray.
- We see that in the way He prayed at the Garden of Gethsemane.



# Jesus Prays

- It was a necessary time for Him to commune with the Father, share His feelings with Him, and submit to the Father's will.
- It may seem like this time of prayer reenergized Jesus so He could go back out and do more ministry, and maybe it did, but Mark didn't say Jesus needed reenergizing.
- Regular prayer was just part of the rhythm of His life.



# Jesus Prays

- Jesus was one with the Father and communed with Him all day long.
- But He also had specific times of prayer, times He carved out to get away and be alone with God.
- He made the time for it, regardless of how busy His life was. fellowship with Him.



# Jesus Prays

- Jesus took the time to pray regularly with how busy He was, we should take the time, too.
- Communing with God all day throughout your day, along with regular special times of prayer, meditating on God's Word and other spiritual disciplines, is needed to walk in fellowship with Him.



# Jesus Has Authority

- Jesus has divine authority not only to heal but to forgive sins (Mark 1:40-2:12)
- This section includes two stories of healings, but beyond the testimony of Jesus' power, they both have something important to teach us about Jesus and the Gospel.
- In the first story, Jesus touched the leper, even though it made Him ritually unclean.



# Jesus Has Authority

- The story also shows the leper kneeling before Jesus, which was an act of worship, pointing again to Jesus as king.
- The way the leper phrased his request showed great faith in Jesus' power – “You can make me clean.”
- But it also showed deference to His will – “If you will.”



# Jesus Has Authority

- This is a foreshadowing of how Jesus would later pray to the Father in the garden, “If it’s your will....”
- Both are a model for us – trusting He can do whatever we ask, realizing He may have reasons for saying no, and deferring to His will.



# Jesus Has Authority

- Jesus was moved with ***compassion*** for the leper.
- It's a word used only 12 times in the New Testament.
- The Hebrew equivalent in the Old Testament is most often used of God's compassion and mercy on His people.
- It's a deep visceral compassion that leads to merciful action. It shows us God's deep love for His children.







# Jesus Has Authority

- When Jesus healed the leper, He told him not to tell anyone. But he went out and told everyone.
- We see in the result why Jesus had been trying to keep His identity secret.
- Jesus was no longer able to go freely from town to town; He had to stay in desolate places, and even then, people came to Him.



# Jesus Has Authority

- When He returned to Capernaum a few days later, so many people had gathered that there was no room even to get in the door. This leads to the story of the second healing.
- Four men lowered their friend through the roof. Many people teach this story as the faith of the friends who carried the man to see Jesus and how important it is to surround yourself with friends of faith.



# Jesus Has Authority

- This is absolutely true, but it's not the main theological point of this story in the context of Mark's account.
- We know this because Jesus didn't initially heal the paralytic physically.
- First, He said, "Your sins are forgiven."



# Jesus Has Authority

- At this point, Jesus' fame had grown so much, He needed to make a public statement about who He really was.
- Many people expected a Messiah who would start a revolution and take over the throne of Israel.
- Many were just excited there was a miracle worker who could heal them.



# Jesus Has Authority

- No one realized Messiah would be God-made-flesh. This exchange with the scribes was crucial to shift their understanding.
- Jesus knew their thoughts, that this was blasphemy because only God has the power to forgive sin.
- Jesus said the Son of Man has authority to forgive sins, then used the miracle to prove His power.



# Jesus Has Authority

- Referring to Himself as the Son of Man was an intentional choice.
- The Son of Man was a divine being who looked like a human but came to God's throne on the clouds of heaven.
- God the Father gave Him all authority over the earth (Daniel 7:13).



# Jesus Has Authority

- This was a Messianic prophecy that showed the theological truth of Jesus as God-made-flesh.
- And it answered their question about authority.
- The Son of Man was given all authority, glory and sovereign power. Jesus had the authority to forgive sins because He is God.



# Jesus Has Authority

- Jesus was telling them who Messiah really was – not just a human political leader but God made flesh.
- He didn't just come to heal their bodies. He came to forgive their sin. To destroy sin and death forever.
- He didn't come just to make our lives here on earth better. He came to rescue us from this world and bring us to the kingdom of heaven.



# Resources

